# SALEM COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES JUNE 26, 2012 5:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by Director Acton. Pledge of Allegiance followed prayer by Deputy Director Laury.

Director Acton stated that adequate notice pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act has been given of this meeting.

On Roll Call, the following Freeholders were present: Deputy Director Laury, Freeholders Cross, Vanderslice, Ware, Bobbitt, Timberman and Acton.

Motion was made by Deputy Director Laury that the Rules of the Board be temporarily waived for resolution to amend the 2012 budget. Freeholder Vanderslice seconded his motion, which carried a hand vote of 7/0.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE - Acton, Vanderslice, Ware

CFO Wright "As you know last week I sent everyone a copy of the amended budget, the full document. We did receive approval today, late today from the State on the budget amendment with a few minor changes. I 'd like to remind everyone in the public that this hearing is for the amendment only the other part of the budget we already had the public hearings so today's comments need to be strictly on the amendment. Director with your permission I'll run through the amendment."

Director Acton "Yes please, do all the freeholders have a copy of the budget?"

CFO Wright "I'll just take them in order. We had some discussions with the state regarding the dispatch fees and due to the fact that we didn't have a signed contract with Pennsville and City of Salem we had to amend the amount of anticipated revenue. Just to clarify, today we had to amend the amendment and both issues were with regard to the dispatch fees. We originally amended the budget down to what was anticipated and received last year for both Pennsville and Salem because we didn't have a contract in place. The state basically denied that. They wanted us to anticipate less so today's negotiations or lack of a better word resulted in us anticipating half of what we received last year so Pennsville we will anticipating 30,000 and for Salem we will be anticipating 65,000 it doesn't mean we can't get more so Salem and Pennsville if you're in here don't think you're only getting away with that and we had to take the difference from surplus which was a total of 95,000. Next we have the state aid. On June 12<sup>th</sup> we received the actual allocation numbers from the state so since the budget hadn't been adopted yet we went ahead and made those changes and we are not getting as much revenue as we expected so the total revenue for state aid dropped from 793,115 down to 599,194. The next item is the revenue from the landfill division of the Improvement Authority we had nothing budgeted and after meeting with the Improvement Authority and the state last we had to add 1,667,543 to the revenue. Don't get too excited that's going right back out to them and we will get to that one in a second. I explained Pennsville and Salem. There was a slight change again on the Improvement Authority for the money that they owe us we had rounded it at 1,333,000 and the actual amount is 1,333,223 so we just to keep everything straight we changed that by the \$322. That's it for the revenue side so for the total revenues originally in the introduced budget the total revenue were 77,763,996.78 the new amount is now 79,242,192.72. The surplus did increase the use of the surplus increased from 5,134,190.01 to 5,203,160.95 there was no change in the tax levy that remained the same. Going to the next page the appropriations with the agreement with the improvement authority that was struck last year the county was suppose to take back the retired employees and cover their health insurance expenses during their retirement. Basically the State would not let the county accept those employees so what has to happen is now we will now as a county be submitting a payment to the Improvement Authority and they will be making those payments. The reason I go through all that because of that the state asked us to separate those funds from the total hospitalization so that's why you'll see the hospitalization goes from 7,866,798 down to 7,722,798 and the difference is 144 which you see on the next line so there's no total difference but we just separated it out. The next line is that money that's going back to the nursing home the 1,667,543 and this is the line item that actually caused us to have a public hearing tonight because one of the reasons for having another public hearing is if any appropriation increases the overall budget by more than one percent, and this did that, so that created a need for the public hearing. Basically what's happening is the state last year required that the Improvement Authority pay off the deficit of the nursing home in 2012 so they were allowing them a onetime transfer from the landfill division to the nursing home and because of statutes they are not allowed to directly transfer money they have to run it thru the county so that's why we have the revenue coming in but it's going to turn around and go right back out to them. Finally we just had to on the county debt service we made a few minor changes we also broke out the vocational school bond principal and interest. The one thing we did do is we removed payments for the dam restoration loan that we did have because no funds were drawn down off of that loan so there is no need for a payment in 2012 so we originally had it in the budget and I talked to the state because I didn't want to have it in the budget and they let us take that out. We also removed the interest payment, the projected interest payment of 97,375 that was included in interest on bonds other bonds and that amount was budgeted for the purpose of paying the anticipated bond that we were going to go out for, for the storm damage because we ended up doing bands today which as you all know we got a very good rate on there will be no bond interest payment for that money this year so we were able to remove that from the budget as well and just like the general revenues the general appropriations are the same they go from 77,763,996.78 up to 79,242,192.72 and folks you have a balanced budget.

Director Acton "Very good any discussion?"

Deputy Director Laury motioned open the public hearing on the 20112 Budget Amendment, seconded by Freeholder Cross and carried by roll call vote 7/0.

Director Acton "I thank you all for coming out today and showing interest in your county government I think it's very important that you know what's going on especially with a budget this size."

Joe Hiles, Woodstown "In regard to the dispatching fees I believe that was reduced from I don't have the number that it was reduced from what was that number that was originally and it was reduced down to 30,000."

Director Acton "It goes through the chair"

Joe Hiles "I'm sorry."

Director Acton "Yes, CFO"

CFO Wright "The Pennsville committee in there original introduced budget was 189,620. You just asked for Pennsville or Salem as well?"

Joe Hiles "If I could have Salem as well that would be great."

CFO Wright "Salem we projected 65,000 and if I may, the 65,000 was because as of December 31, 2011 that's all Salem had paid so that's what we could anticipate at that time."

Joe Hiles "And are we still anticipating this being that they don't have a valid contract from

Director Acton "We are anticipating revenue because we have done their service for six months and actually I think we anticipated it up to July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Joe Hiles "Okay thank you very much."

Director Acton "Thank you Mr. Hiles."

Maggie Maxwell-Mood, Quinton "I went through the budget that was online today and this what you're proposing this amended piece this was not online for review correct"

CFO Wright "That is correct."

Maggie Maxwell-Mood, "Then Madam chair It leaves me a little confused because of course I had some questions but with new information it's rather difficult to ask questions that you weren't exposed to the changes of."

Director Acton "And that's what he just went over the review."

Maggie Maxwell-Mood, "The treasure did an excellent job evaluating and reviewing and our receivable seem that we've done some services and they are going to reimburse us for the services that we've done.

Director Acton, "Correct"

Maggie Maxwell-Mood, "Right and then they will be leaving the county."

Director Acton "Yes well it's not official yet."

Maggie Maxwell-Mood, "We haven't received any notices as county government that they are leaving.

Director Acton, "Correct"

Maggie Maxwell-Mood, "Why thank you."

Director Acton, "Thank you."

Ann Sullivan, Woodstown "I have questions because I also heard about this budget amendment at the SCIA meeting and I also looked on line so I'm referring to my old notes but I'm trying to process what came in just prior so my question is when all the money's going back and forth does that still alter or change the Economic Development Division. Does that go anywhere from SCIA?"

Director Acton, "Yes it does

Ann Sullivan "Okay that's what I wanted to know."

Director Acton "It will not be going back to the Improvement Authority."

Ann Sullivan "Well see according to this is on sheet 25b it wasn't going there anyway."

Director Acton "Correct"

Ann Sullivan "So I'm saying I have for \$211,000 went some place okay under SCIA Administrative Economic Development Division and for 2012 there is a void there is a white space so no matter where it's going that money's not anywhere anymore it's not in the budget at all there's no economic development for Salem County?"

Director Acton "No there is not. We're going to be talking about that at our strategic planning meeting and I'm going to touch on that after this public comment."

Ann Sullivan "Okay so whatever that was and then that changed but wasn't that part of the original plan that's were I was confused with the money that goes back and forth to the landfill it was never in the original budget for 2012

Director Acton "No it was not."

Ann Sullivan "Okay wonderful thank you very much thanks for all the hard work."

Stacey Pennington, Elsinboro "just a quick question and maybe you already answered it and I just didn't hear. Why don't we have a contract with the dispatch why didn't we have a signed contract?"

Director Acton "It was, the contract was made up about three years ago, correct me if I'm wrong Clerk of the Board, about three years ago and Pennsville received it made some changes there was some name changes that needed to be made just changes to the contract maybe some spelling mistakes and sent it back to the County and it did not get processed.

Stacey Pennington "Okay so this is something it's a three year contract. Is that typical?"

Director Acton "Four years."

Four years okay so will we be having a new contract?

Director Acton "With Pennsville and Carneys Point we're in negotiations as we speak."

Stacey Pennington "Thank you."

Director Acton "Pennsville and Salem thank you."

CFO Wright "Referring back to Mrs. Ms. Sullivan's comment or question regarding whether or not the transfer money was in the original budget just in case any of the freeholders were wondering we didn't have a solid number at the time that we introduced the budget and speaking with the auditor for the Improvement Authority who was our former auditor him and I had decided that we would just do a Chapter 159 when the time came when we had that solid number but then at that meeting last week the state indicated that they would rather us include it in this budget and not Chapter 159 and so that's why we made the amendment."

Deputy Director Laury motioned to close the public hearing, seconded by Cross and carried by roll call vote Deputy Director Laury, yes; Freeholders Cross, yes; Vanderslice, yes; Ware, yes; Bobbitt, yes; Timberman, yes, and Acton, yes 7/0.

Deputy Director Laury moved for the adoption R. 2012-317, 2012 Budget Amendment, seconded by Freeholder Cross.

Solicitor Levitsky "I don't think we ever voted on the original budget so the budget as amended I think is the way it should be read

Clerk of the Board Gage "We're not voting on the budget now we are voting on the amendment."

CFO Wright "We never voted on the amended budget

Clerk of the Board Gage "We are voting on this resolution which amends the budget ."

Solicitor Levitsky "Did we vote or did we vote previously on the budget itself?"

Clerk of the Board Gage "No."

Freeholder Timberman "We introduced it."

Director Acton "The introduction."

Clerk of the Board Gage "We introduced it."

Solicitor Levitsky "So what are you doing with that."

Clerk of the Board Gage, "You are amending the budget that was introduced then adopting the budget as amended"

As there was no further discussion motion carried by roll call vote Deputy Director Laury, yes; Freeholders Cross, yes; Vanderslice, yes; Ware, yes; Bobbitt, yes; Timberman, yes and Acton, yes 7/0.

#### ADOPTION OF THE AMENDED 2012 SALEM COUNTY BUDGET

Deputy Director Laury motioned to adopt R. 2012-318, 2012 Salem County Budget as amended, seconded by Cross.

Freeholder Timberman "Yes Madam Director thank you. Last week there was a letter there was a letter in the paper from the Republican County Chair in which he stated the Democrats on the Freeholder Board would vote against this budget for various insignificant reasons he's right in that I will be voting against this budget but he's wrong however in using the word insignificant. The majority has

continually misrepresented the facts seems only four votes are needed to approve the budget they totally control all aspects of this process including adoption. Now let me tell you the facts that you are not going to hear. They have increased spending \$500,000 they will attempt to mislead you explaining that the bottom line is lower than 2011 however what they won't tell you is that the 2011 figures include 1 full year of grants whereas 2012 only includes six months so if you compare apples to apples and remove the grant figure they have significantly increase this year's budget. The most was given to the correctional facility who saw a 20 percent increase or about \$390,000 increase. Mr. Wright is that figure correct?

Freeholder Timberman "I'll continue. They have increased the debt. Debt payments last year total 4.9 million dollars annually this year they total 5.4 million dollars, they have increased taxes they have raised the tax rate 4.7 cents which equates to 1.3 million dollars, 12 out of the 15 municipalities will an increase which means 52,000 residents will be paying higher taxes this year. This represents a 2.7 percent increase which is over the 2 percent cap that the governor passed. Now the majority wants you to think they have worked hard and actually decreased line items. Director Acton is quoted in the minutes as saying we have decreased spending and we are starting to turn this county around but I don't see it. I see a budget that rewards the few at the expense of the many so I have never been more proud as a citizen to cast no vote than I am today. Thank you.

Director Acton "Thank you Freeholder Timberman."

Freeholder Bobbitt "I will be voting against the budget as well. Last year Freeholder Laury voted against the 2011 budget stating that we need to have equal sacrifice and further stated looking at the budget of the administration of the county was only cut by 8 percent that, was in 2011. In this budget Republican majority only targets one union for layoffs ignoring sky rocketing cost in other unions in addition out of 500 county workers they target 34 workers to pay more for their health benefits. Equal sacrifice, I don't think so. Last year we were upset, last year they were upset that the administration cost were reduced by only 8 percent again what a difference a year makes. This year they increase administration cost by almost \$100,000 as just a example of this they took a part-time purchasing agent position and made it full time with benefits. There's no complaint this year because the administration is made up of their appointees. My position throughout this year's budget process has been that we need to exhaust every option available to us in attempting to balance this budget and that there were no, not enough cuts in spending to avert layoffs. I proudly stand with our CWA workers and cast a no vote in support of them and their families.

Director Acton "Thank you Freeholder Bobbitt."

Freeholder Ware "Yes Madam Director this majority over and over again have told us how fair and open that they are that means being honest with people, it means telling the people the facts. As you have heard they claim equal sacrifice and lower expenditures we know that that isn't the case. I have been very consistent for 12 and a half years of public service. The layoff of our workers is not the way to go. I voted against it 11 years ago and I will vote against it today. There are better ways smarter ways to balance the budget than creating hardship of our residents. One year ago the CFO called us all together, over the summer, and said guys 2012 is going to be a horrible year you better tighten your belts. But even with this information as soon as you took office the day after the election you increased administration by \$100,000 you increased debt payments, spending at the expense of our workforce. You took the easy way out rather than increasing revenues by working out contracts with municipalities or cutting spending you chose the most vulnerable and took their jobs how about a meeting where you could discuss the hardships that would be caused to the families of the workers that lose their jobs, how about a meeting where you can discuss the unemployment costs to the county and the increased overtime cost that will result from these layoffs. Today the majority will approve their budget. They will do so without my support but they will have my pledge to continue to fight the injustice to our loyal dedicated workforce."

Director Acton "Thank you Freeholder Ware."

Freeholder Vanderslice "Well I had a prepared statement but I think I'm going to move off of that. What I have seen is an Improvement Authority who has stole almost 11 million dollars of the tax payors money and the Democratic majority last year being an accessory to the crime. That's what I've seen. What I've seen is payments to the Improvement Authority totaling \$20,000 of additional rent for the jail and \$233,000 for economic development which amounted to a brochure and three half page ads in the

local newspaper which doesn't in my opinion amount to economic development and you condoned all that. If we had that money in our pocketbook we wouldn't be facing these problems so the blame shouldn't be rested on us it should be resting on you. You were the ones that created the problem. Now with that I'll move into my statement. On Wednesday June 6, 2012 Freeholder Director Julie Acton gave an excellent presentation about the Salem County 2012 Budget the review included information about the challenges this freeholder board face and addressed the question how did we get here. It presented options that everyone faces with their own personal budget and demonstrated how this freeholder board would use a very specific guiding principal the challenge included closing a 13 million dollar shortfall in a 77 million dollar budget now it's a 79 million dollar budget. Freeholder Director Acton emphasized this was a situation years in the making from 2001 to 2011 the county budget grew from 56.6 to 77.1 million while those in charge, you folks that just made the statements that you made, piled on the debt a decade of debt. From 2008 to 2011 the number of employees in the county increased by 12 percent while reserves were drawn down to increase spending and lower the tax rate. Those charged with making decision over the past few years did so by utilizing a strategy of hope you hoped that things would get better and you borrowed money, you hoped that things would get better and you spent the county reserves you hoped that nobody would find out. Hope is not a strategy we said that over and over. The Republicans majority's mantra is to ensure that we do what governments must do and it's going to take us more than one year to get to that point. We will protect essential services, we will negotiate realistic contracts that reflect the economic realities we're facing and not spend beyond our means. Let me just quote Thomas Jefferson who said this government big enough to supply everything you need is big enough to take everything that you have. The course of history shows us that as government grows liberty decreases the Republican majority agrees. Thank vou."

Director Acton "Thank you Freeholder Vanderslice."

Deputy Director Laury "I want take this minute and Bob I'm not the orator that you are but I'd like to take this minute and thank my three Democratic Freeholders for voting against it. Kind of a surprising thing to say but let me recap some of your past voting as Bob eluded to you voted for budget the last 10 years increased borrowing by seven times with what originally was on the books, you voted to increase our surplus over the 10 years to one sixth of what it was you voted to give a 7.5 million dollar nursing home and an additional 3.5 million dollars to go along with it then at the sale you voted again to accept \$850,000 as the county share. You voted for a PLA agreement last year so we could get more Salem County employees to work, not only did you vote against Salem County businesses from bidding the project a little bit further I just the most recent certified payroll report shows that there's only one subcontractor from Salem County. A lot of our employees are from out of state from other parts of this state not even South Jersey how's this working out for Salem County not very good. Thank you for that vote. Even last meeting the Democrat minority voted to borrow money to put into the budget. It's the same old thing over and over again lets borrow money to balance our budget we need to turn around. I'm kind of glad you voted against it or voting against it because just shows I'm a little bit more confident now that today I'm making the right vote for it. Thank you Madam Director."

Director Acton "Thank you Freeholder Laury."

Freeholder Cross "Madam Director if I could just to touch on a couple things that were said here amongst both parties here of the freeholder board. I wanted to touch on some of the facts that were raised by either Freeholder Timberman, Freeholder Bobbitt or Freeholder Ware. One of them was you know the 4.7 tax increase and correct me if I'm wrong but I think 2.5 of that was just to get up to last year's levy. Is that a correct statement?

CFO Wright "Yes it is."

Freeholder Cross "But we talked about increase in administration Freeholder Bobbitt brought up an example of a part-time verses a full time purchasing agent. The part-time purchasing agent was making 30 plus dollars an hour no benefits because it was part-time our full time purchasing agent agreed to a much lower rate with the benefits the increase is a \$1,000 and we have somebody on the job full time overseeing our contracts and our agreements so I look at that as money well spent. Freeholder Ware touched on a couple things and I sat in this room a couple months ago and four months ago and I sat through every meeting that we had with SCIA. I asked for an equal division of the assets we got nothing. in addition to the numbers that Freeholder Laury spoke to not only the 850,000 we agreed to and the \$250,000 payment that was supposed to be divided out so the total of 1.1 we

agreed they voted for taking on the additional employees and the retirement benefits that was 1.5 million dollars as determined by our actuary am I correct CFO that was the number."

CFO Wright "I believe that was the number yes."

Freeholder Cross "So we took on an additional \$350,000 to 400,000 debt so I fail to see talking about surplus Freeholder Ware mentioned the easy out to me and going through this budget and going through the process that we did starting in December as the freeholder board said we were working together and giving everybody the opportunity to be a part of this solution pulling 13 or 14 million dollars from surplus every year two years in my eyes is the easy way out that's my opinion. Increasing cost because of OT because we're having to be laying of one union not for layoffs it was the last thing we tried to fight it we did everything that we tried to do and made numerous proposals. We made these decisions so that we're not going into the unions and the offices that we would have to pay 1.5 and 2.5 two and a half times four in the event that we had openings. 24/7 operations our correctional facility those types of organizations our dispatch that's why those moves were made. So we had the nursing home and lastly I sit and listen to it and as taking over as the Public Safety Director here in 2012 I tried to get my arms around these dispatch contracts it's been the topic of conversation for the last couple meetings well I finally asked for all the paperwork and the accounting so the then Democrat majority or the people they appointed to those respective positions responsible saw fit over a four year period that our accounts receivable was in the deficit of \$224,000 so excuse me and pardon me folks if I don't see this as anything other than politics or potential campaign issues for November. Thank you."

Freeholder Ware "Are we allowed to respond."

Director Acton "Yes you are Freeholder Ware."

Freeholder Ware "I've been sitting here since January one thing after another and Freeholder Vanderslice you are quite an orator but obviously you never coached because you don't handle pressure very well you talked about to protect your most valuable services Debbie Behnke went after her hold over she has a scar to this day 12,000 disabled residents in this county and we had to make her almost beg for her job, Veterans Affairs you take Michael Smith who serviced three tours of duty in Iraq and you cut him at the last minute until you had phone calls take it away from Freeholder Bobbitt a decorated war hero, Jim Turk who brought millions of dollars to this county, that's not a valuable service, decade of debt catch words of 2012, transparency this decade of debt guys you have voted for every bond we ever voted for so you're part of this decade of debt but I hope tonight after this charade is over the budget is passed that we can move over move forward for the people of Salem County.

As there was no further discussion and carried by roll call vote Deputy Director Laury, yes; Freeholders Cross, yes; Vanderslice, yes; Ware, no; Bobbitt, no; Timberman, no and Acton, yes 4/3.

Director Acton "This is the hand that we were dealt. Had the county received a fair and reasonable portion of the nursing home sale precedes we would very likely be in a position that would not require layoffs or tax increases. Along the way we sought everyone's participation in this very open process despite the fact it was mentioned in a January meeting that you guys know that I can't vote for this budget others choose not to attend all the meetings but yet we gave everybody the opportunity to participate. Regardless although disappointed by tonight's actions we'll continue to work hard for the residents of Salem County and make the tough decisions when difficult times are presented. With that do we have closed session. Any other business."

Freeholder Timberman "Thank you Madam Director I read in the paper yesterdays paper Director Acton made the decision after reaching out to fellow freeholders to deny the use of our chamber office for a potential ghost television show. Now let me be clear I am not a big believer of ghosts however I question Director Acton's processing in making this decision. Recently Cape May Prosecutor Robert Taylor notified members of Lower Township Council they had violated the open public meetings act last year by conducting business by email. In December council members used email to discuss hiring a township manager and as Taylor pointed out that meant the public had no notice of this discussion and no opportunity to offer comment so I believe the use of public property for any reason should be discussed in a public venue. I would like to ask our solicitor to investigate the possible violation of the Sunshine Law."

Director Acton "Thank you Freeholder Timberman. This was a decision that had to be made asap and I explained to Mr. Hogate that we were not having a meeting prior to the time that he had to have an answer so we discussed it at the Admin Meeting with Freeholder Vanderslice and Freeholder Ware. I felt that this need to be, all of us needed to be informed as you always wish that I would inform you and keep you abreast on different activities so I couldn't call for a vote but I just wanted to get everyone's opinion on this. When I did not hear back from you or didn't feel comfortable with the responses I received I just made a decision and pulled that because he had to know within a day whether we could do it or not."

Freeholder Timberman "But we have you have called emergency meetings recall we had to have a waiver for the March 16<sup>th</sup> meeting when we were looking into the budget debacle that we called an emergency meeting so I don't see why you couldn't have called an emergency meeting if everybody couldn't make it oh well. We've called emergency meetings and I think we're going into a dangerous territory by doing some of the things that we've been doing through email and that's why I didn't respond. It's not the proper venue even though it's available doesn't mean we should use it."

Director Acton "And I won't get into a long discussion with you but there's been many, many discussions like that so..."

Freeholder Vanderslice "No I was just going to say that it's my understanding that the current tenant in the building had already given some type of permission and so there were air plane tickets bought and that kind of thing and that's why the decision had to be made quickly so the reality of it is maybe if you guys hadn't leased the building to the chamber for a \$1 a year we wouldn't have this issue."

Freeholder Timberman "That had nothing to do with it. Like she said the TV show wanted a quick answer and they purchased the tickets."

Freeholder Vanderslice "But my understanding was authority was given by the occupant of the building and they don't own the building so they had no right to give the authority. That's my understanding."

Freeholder Timberman "I was told that we were asked that it was brought to us because they knew they didn't own the building."

Freeholder Vanderslice "That was the cover up."

Director Acton "I just want to get everyone up to speed we're not having our workshop meeting and we won't meet again until July 18<sup>th</sup>. The Cultural and Heritage position is being advertised and it will be advertised in house for five days and if they cannot find anyone they will go out. The Cultural and Heritage and the Tourism Advisory Committee they jointly put together an advertisement so I commend them for working together so well and proceeding with that. Last year I believe we did a newsletter to get information out to the public and I would like to in our Admin Meeting discuss that a little bit further doing that again this year. The bond the CFO had touched on we sold that today. Did you want to say anymore about the rates and the two bonds that went out for sale."

CFO Wright "Just that bond council and our financial advisory's everyone was very pleased with the rates that we had. We had four or five bids on our bands and then I believe it was four bids on the county college bond so everything went very smoothly and we got favorable rates."

Director Acton "Thank you. I have copies of the Cultural and Heritage position if anyone wanted to see it and I have a copy of the newsletter that we did last year. Route 40/45 Mrs. Rogers came last time I know I'm bringing it up without her being here but we are sending out a letter to the State requesting again that they move forward with that project. The status of the vehicle fleet Freeholder Bobbitt sent out a memo. Did you want to elaborate on that memo that you sent out, the update?"

Freeholder Bobbitt "I guess I can I was going to wait until next week but I guess I can. What we did is, the committee is over we've done our work, it's done. What we have here is a what we did is we ended up eliminated 13 take home vehicles they will be staying here in the county. and if you want to pass these around Coach. This is just a copy of the report I guess there's enough there for you. You can take a look at it we change the, there's the policy everything about take home cars and everything's all done and what we've we have cars here listed for auction that we're going to auction off and just the full report right here so you are welcome to read it at your leisure. But we did eliminate 13 take home

cars and while we're on this we went through this how long did we go through this about three or four months six months maybe?

Director Acton "yes"

Freeholder Bobbitt "And we're trying to eliminate cars going out of the county and down the road. Now last night I was in Woodstown I notice a county car going past me at about 5:00 or 5:30 and I looked and I said what is this county car here and I called Mrs. Acton Director Acton to see what this car was and here it was her and Evern taking the county car to Cape May for South Jersey Freeholders Meeting. Now we're jumping up and down about people taking cars home let's just, that's really not even a county business actually that's a separate thing and I don't know why you were driving taking a car down to Cape May."

Director Acton "Actually that was county business and it was a very productive meeting. We talked about health benefits, we talked about a new coop of purchasing, we talked about it was very, very productive and I could give you a list of what we did. I know in prior years the Clerk of the Board has always taken Freeholder Timberman to Trenton, to Atlantic City, to the different South Jersey Freeholder Association Meetings. I think it was a well worthwhile of our vehicle and gas."

Freeholder Bobbitt "I don't doubt that you had a productive meeting that's all well and good I hope you did that's why you went but I don't know why you would take a county car. What were you trying to save \$5 or \$8 worth of gas by taking your own car I mean what was the reason for taking the county car because somebody else did it. What was the purpose I mean why didn't you drive your own car?"

Director Acton "Thank you for your question and I know my different leadership classes and seminars I've always taken my own vehicle. This time the County Administrator picked me up and I think that was fine for him to do that."

Freeholder Bobbitt "Well I think it was the wrong thing to do you're the leader of the county you're the director and we're taking cars away from people because we're trying to save maintenance trying to save gas money and then you get in a car and go to Cape May I just think it's the wrong thing to do."

Director Acton "Thank you for your opinion. We have another status report and this is for the copier and leases of copier leases and the desktop printer. Mr. Foley is here that did a very nice report. Did you want to say anything about this? If not I think this has been emailed to all the freeholders for your review."

Kevin Foley "I have no comment to make but if there's questions anybody has I'd be more than willing to answer.

Director Acton "Thank you Mr. Foley and I guess that is it."

R. 2012-318 ADMINISTRATIVE

## RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC FROM A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS OF THE COUNTY OF SALEM

Director Acton "I really do want to reiterate that I thank you all for coming out and participating in your county business as you can see we all have our gifts and talents and we come up here together and we mesh. We have difference of opinions but I think we agree to disagree. There's a lot of respectfulness going on here and we really appreciate it so thank you guys for coming to our meeting."

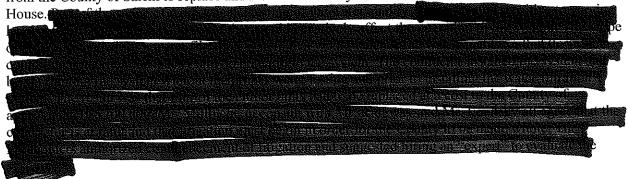
Deputy Director Laury made a motion to into executive session at 5:47 pm, seconded by Freeholder Vanderslice, motion carried 7/0.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES SPECIAL MEETING JUNE 26, 2012 OF THE SALEM COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

Present: Freeholders Acton, Laury, Cross, Vanderslice, Bobbitt, Ware, and Timberman. CFO Wright, Administrator Ford, COB Gage, Solicitor Levitsky, and Special Counsel Mike Mulligan.

The Freeholders entered executive session at 5:59 PM by resolution for the purpose of discussing possible litigation with Surety Mechanical.

Mr. Mulligan discussed the scope of the case noting that Surety Mechanical received the low bid contract from the County of Salem to replace and install a chiller system that was to be located in the Salem Court



At 6:30 Freeholder Vanderslice motioned, second by Freeholder Laury to re enter public session, carried 7/0

Respectively submitted,

Earl R. Gage Clerk of the Board